

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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R 151556Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2966
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 21731

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG SA SY PLO
SUBJECT: SADAT ON ARAFAT AND KHALID/FAHD MESSAGES

SUMMARY: SADAT SAYS HE HAS RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM ARAFAT IN BEIRUT ALLEGEDLY ADMITTING THAT PALESTINIANS SECRETLY SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS. ARAFAT SOUGHT GIVE SADAT FULL AUTHORITY SPEAK FOR PALESTINIANS, BUT ASKED THAT THIS BE DONE SECRETLY SO THAT SYRIANS DO NOT LEARN OF HIS APPEAL. ALSO REQUESTED SADAT'S INTERVENTION WITH AMERICANS TO MAKE A GESTURE TOWARD HIM. SIMILAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM ABU IYYAD IN TUNISIA ASKING FOR INVITATION TO CAIRO CONFERENCE AND INDICATING READINESS TO ATTEND. SADAT GAVE ORDERS TO DEFER GIVING ANY REPLY UNTIL AFTER BEGIN TRIP TO U.S. HAS BEEN EVALUATED. SADAT REMAINS READY GO TO BAT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN WEST BANK AND GAZA. MESSAGES ALSO RECEIVED FROM KING KHALID AND PRINCE FAHD APPEALING TO HIM TO SOLVE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM ALONG WITH SINAI. SAUDI LEADERS DISMISSED SYRIA BUT STRESSED NEED TO DO SOMETHING FOR PALESTINIANS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH SADAT'S OWN THINKING. END SUMMARY.

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1. MET WITH SADAT THIS MORNING AT THE BARRAGES FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE DISCUSSED CURRENT PLO ATTITUDE TOWARD EGYPT AND CAIRO CONFERENCE.

2. SADAT RELATED THAT ARAFAT SENT HIM A MESSAGE LAST NIGHT BY SPECIAL MESSENGER FROM BEIRUT. HE, SADAT, REFUSED

TO RECEIVE THE MESSENGER. ANYONE WHO VILIFIES EGYPT, SADAT STATED FORCEFULLY, WILL NOT BE RECEIVED BY HIM. INSTEAD, HE INSTRUCTED PRIMIN MAMDUH SALEM TO RECEIVE ARAFAT'S EMISSARY. SALEM DID SO AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOE WANTS

NOTHING TO DO WITH PLO SO LONG AS IT BEHAVES THE WAY IT HAS OF LATE. SALEM NEVERTHELESS HEARD OUT THE MESSENGER AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONVEYED ARAFAT'S MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT.

3. THE MESSENGER RELATED THAT ARAFAT COULD NOT GIVE HIM THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OR DISCUSS IT AT PLO OFFICES. PLO OFFICES ARE ALL BUGGED OR WATCHED BY THE SYRIANS. HENCE, ARAFAT HAD TO DRIVE THE MESSENGER OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT AND FURTIVELY PASS THE LETTER TO THE EMISSARY WHILE THEY WERE DRIVING.

4. ACCORDING TO SADAT, ARAFAT'S MESSAGE ADMITTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO JERUSALEM CHANGED THE ATTITUDE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN BOTH GAZA AND THE WEST BANK. SADAT'S PUBLIC STATEMENT TO ARAB WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST HUSBANDS OR BROTHERS MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION. ALL THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, ARAFAT ALLEGEDLY STATED, ARE SECRETLY WITH SADAT IN HIS EFFORT, BUT DARE NOT SAY SO OPENLY. ARAFAT ALSO SOUGHT TO GIVE SADAT FULL AUTHORITY TO SPEAK FOR THE PALESTINIANS, BUT ASKED THAT THIS BE DONE SECRETLY. ARAFAT DID NOT WANT THE SYRIANS TO KNOW ABOUT HIS APPEAL. ARAFAT
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ALSO APPEALED TO SADAT TO "ASK THE AMERICANS TO MAKE ANY KIND OF A GESTURE TOWARD ME." (WHEN RELATING THIS LAST COMMENT, SADAT SHARPLY CRITICIZED ARAFAT FOR HAVING COOPERATED WITH THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE.)

5. HERE SADAT NOTED THAT ABU IYYAD, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN TUNISIA, HAD ALSO SENT A MESSAGE TO HIM. THE TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO MET YESTERDAY WITH ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI TO SAY THAT ABU IYYAD WANTS AN INVITATION TO THE CAIRO CONFERENCE. IF SUCH AN INVITATION WERE EXTENDED TO HIM, ABU IYYAD WOULD BE PREPARED TO JOIN THE CONFERENCE. WHEN PRIMIN AND BOUTROS GHALI REPORTED THIS TO SADAT, THE PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED GHALI TO DEFER GIVING ANY REPLY. NO ANSWER SHOULD BE SENT UNTIL AFTER PRIMIN BEGIN'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IS OVER AND HAS BEEN EVALUATED.

6. SADAT NOTED THAT, HAD THE PLO INITIALLY AGREED TO ACCEPT, IT WOULD HAVE PUT HIM ON THE SPOT. HE WOULD HAVE HAD TO FIGHT THE CASE OF PLO PARTICIPATION EVEN IF THIS MEANT THAT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE MIGHT ABORT. NOW, HOWEVER, SINCE THE PLO DID NOT ACCEPT THE INITIAL INVITATION, IT IS PREFERABLE THAT THEY BE KEPT AT

ARMS LENGTH--AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. BUT, SADAT EMPHASIZED, HE IS PREPARED TO GO TO BAT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. THE ISRAELIS SHOULD HAVE NO DOUBTS ON THAT SCORE. IN FACT, EVEN IF THE DETAILS OF A SINAI AGREEMENT SHOULD BY ANY CHANCE BE WORKED OUT IN

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ACTION NODS-00

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

PHASE I OF THE CONFERENCE, HE WOULD INSIST THAT WITHDRAWAL NOT BEGIN IN PHASE II UNTIL SUCH TIME AS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

7. SADAT COMMENTED THAT THIS IS ALSO KING KHALID AND PRINCE FAHD'S VIEW. THEY HAD SENT HIM LETTERS YESTERDAY, APPEALING TO HIM TO SOLVE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM ALONG WITH THE SINAI PROBLEM. THE SAUDI LEADERS INDICATED ANNOYANCE AT SYRIA. THEY SAW NO NEED THAT ANYTHING BE DONE FOR SYRIANS AND PROFESSED TO HAVE LOST HOPE IN ASSAD COMING TO HIS SENSES. THE PRESIDENT NEED NOT TAKE SYRIA INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING HIS CALCULATIONS, BUT SHOULD DO SOMETHING FOR THE PALESTINIANS. SADAT SAID THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH HIS OWN THINKING. IF HIS PROPOSAL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND A FIVE-YEAR UN TRUSTEESHIP IS ACCEPTED BY THE ISRAELIS, THIS WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS THE PALESTINIANS COULD EXERCISE SELF-DETERMINATION AND DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE. IN SADAT'S VIEW, SOME LINK WITH JORDAN MADE THE MOST SENSE, BUT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD ULTIMATELY DECIDE.

8. COMMENT: SADAT MADE NO OTHER COMMENT ABOUT THE

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KHALID/FAHD MESSAGES OF YESTERDAY. HE WAS IN GOOD FORM,
BUT OBVIOUSLY A LITTLE ANXIOUS ABOUT WHAT MIGHT COME OUT OF
BEGIN VISIT TO U.S. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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